

REMARKS

This Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection previously raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, dated May 12, 2006 2006, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments.

Claims

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19, 20, 25, 27, 28, 29 and 30 are now pending in the present application. Claims 1, 15 and 29 are currently amended. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 31, 32, 33, and 34 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 35 and 36 included in Applicant's previous amendment were not entered.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner has again objected to the drawings under 37 CFR §1.83(a) in that the drawings are deemed not to show every feature of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the "at least one projectile stopping panel" (Claims 15, 16), "the impact cushioning panel" (Claim 28), and "the projectile stopping panel comprising loosely-entangled fibers" (Claim 29) are not shown in the drawings. In the previous Office Action, Applicant pointed out to Examiner that these features were already shown in FIGS. 1 and 9. During an informal telephone conversation with Examiner on August 8, 2006, Examiner noted that these features are not shown in FIGS. 15 and 16, which represent specie E elected with traverse by Applicant pursuant to a restriction requirement. Examiner also stated that he would not look outside FIGS. 15 and 16 for the above referenced features.

Pursuant to Examiner's suggestion that he will not look at any other figures other than FIGS. 15 and 16 for the features of the invention, replacement drawing sheets are attached to this response clearly depicting the "at least one projectile stopping panel" (Claims 15, 16), "the impact cushioning panel" (Claim 28), and "the projectile stopping panel comprising loosely-entangled fibers (Claim 29) in FIG. 16. Specifically, the "at least one projectile stopping panel" and "the projectile stopping panel comprising loosely entangled fibers" are identified by reference numeral 5. The "impact cushioning panel" is identified by reference numeral 6.

No new matter has been entered because these amendments to the drawings are clearly supported by the original disclosure. In paragraph 0069 of the published application, the description of FIG. 16 states that the bullet is "trapped into the mass or against the surface of any further ballistic panel, such as the panels of FIGS. 1 and 9." Therefore, the ballistic panels of FIGS. 1 and 9 are incorporated by reference into the description of FIG. 16. Consequently, FIG. 16 has been amended to include the ballistic panels identified by the reference numerals 5 and 6 in FIGS. 1 and 9.

Paragraph 0042 of the published application refers in the description of FIG. 1 to "at least one projectile-trapping panel 5." Likewise, the specification at paragraph 0070 refers to "at least one projectile-stopping panel, or trapping panel", which indicates that the terms "projectile trapping panel" and "projectile stopping panel" are used interchangeably. Such panel is now clearly depicted in FIG. 16 and identified by the reference numeral 5.

The "projectile stopping panel comprising loosely entangled fibers" in claim 29 is also shown in FIG. 16. Applicant respectfully refers Examiner to the preceding paragraph indicating that the terms "projectile stopping panel" and "projectile trapping panel" are used

interchangeably. To the extent Examiner believes that the “loosely entangled fibers” portion of claim 29 is not shown, Applicant refers Examiner to paragraph 0055 of the specification, wherein it is disclosed that “the projectile-trapping panels 5 . . . may comprise a mass of loosely-entangled microfibers 15, FIGS. 1 and 2.” The same paragraph goes on to state that “the term ‘microfiber’ must be understood as encircling all kind of fibers, filaments, threads and the like.” The term “loosely entangled” is defined in paragraph 0057 of the specification. The term “loosely entangled” is also described and claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,684,468, col. 4, l. 45 through col. 5, l. 12 and claim 1. Therefore, “the projectile stopping panel comprising loosely entangled fibers” in claim 29 is now depicted in FIG. 16 and identified by reference numeral 5.

Applicant also respectfully submits that the “impact cushioning panel” referred to in claim 28 is now shown in FIG. 16. In paragraph 0043 the specification discloses “at least one impact cushioning panel **6**, see FIG. 1”. Again, Applicant respectfully refers Examiner to the description of FIG. 16, paragraph 0069, which also refers to FIG. 1 and incorporates the ballistic panels of FIG. 1 by reference into the description of FIG. 16. Because the “impact cushioning panel”, “the projectile stopping panel”, and “the projectile stopping panel comprising loosely entangled fibers” originally shown in FIG. 1 are now shown in FIG. 16 and identified by the reference numerals 5 and 6, Applicant requests that Examiner withdraws his objection under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) that these features are not shown in the drawings.

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present Response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the claims are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over references cited by Examiner. Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections in view of the foregoing remarks. If there are any outstanding issues that the Examiner feels may be resolved by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact David W. Carstens at 972.367.2001.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional payments that may be due for additional claims to Deposit Account 50-0392.

Respectfully submitted,

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